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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)
SUBJECT The CDU and the SED Declaration
of Intentions in the Event of War

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The text of a circular letter from the CDU main office (Russian zone) to all state headquarters is given below:

Subject: Declaration by the Polit-Büro of the SED of
Intentions in the Event of War

The Polit-Büro of the SED, on 8 March 1949, made a declaration comparable to the declarations made by communist parties in other countries that in the event of war, the population would fight on the side of the Red Army. This declaration by the SED has been the subject of many inquiries directed at our party. The position of the CDU on this question is as follows:

The CDU stands for an uncompromising policy for peace. It supports without reservation all movements intended to secure peace. This explains our positive endorsement of the policy of the Soviet Union. A discussion about an eventual decision in the event of a war seems therefore merely to be a movement to weaken the cause of peace. Therefore the CDU sees no reason for taking part in this war of nerves.

Furthermore at the present time an authentic formulation of the opinion of the German people toward the Soviet Union is being clarified in the rewriting of the regulations for the Bloc-policy, and will express the opinion of all parties within the Bloc. Therefore all party units of the CDU are advised to refrain from making any declarations of policy in view of the present Bloc negotiations.

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Georg Dertinger

12 JUNE 1949

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